



League of N.H. Craftsmen

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Polymer Clay

STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR POLYMER CLAY

League standards for polymer clay require that the material be fundamentally transformed by the artisan resulting in work that demonstrates technical fluency, integrity of intent and a spirited sense of personal vision.

Craftsmanship refers to the technical skills involved with polymer clay: cane work, painting, etching, finishing and surface techniques and their execution including any accessories. Craftsmanship should be consistent throughout the entire piece and be technically well crafted of high quality materials.

The work must demonstrate technical proficiency and should express the personal vision and aesthetic of the maker, demonstrating a coherent stylistic development with every attention to detail, design, function, and finish which sets the work apart.

Technical Guidelines

1. All work must be of original design.
2. The work should reflect a strong and original stylistic development. Applicants should present a body of work (minimum of 8 pieces), which consistently demonstrates range and mastery of craft, technical and creative ability, as well as personal expression.
3. If applicant works on a variety of styles, multiple examples of each type of work must be brought to jury.
4. Artistry of piece involves design and composition. Presentation, innovation and creativity all come into play. Form, color and mass should all be working together to make an integrated whole.
5. The jury will only accept work where polymer clay is the main focus.
6. If a piece can be constructed solely of polymer clay, it should be, provided it is structurally sound and suits the function of the piece.
7. When molds, pictorial rubber stamps, photographs, transfers or cane patterns are used, the original must be made and produced solely through the concept and hand of the craftsperson.
8. Each piece should demonstrate that attention has been paid to all surfaces.
9. Work should be durable, structurally strong and well made so that it has a reasonable life span when used for its intended purpose.

10. Enhancements to the finished piece, hanging supports, findings and accessories should be of a high quality, function properly, and be physically strong and well integrated within the work.
11. Use of adhesives should be controlled and appropriate to the design and the function of the piece. Adhesives used in fabricating the work must be carefully applied with no "squeeze out" visible. Choice of adhesive must be appropriate to the material and its intended use.
12. If work falls under multiple mediums, guidelines for each medium must also be met.

Guidelines for Surface Design

1. Overall design of the piece should be harmonious. Painting, decorating, carving, etching, color and surface treatments should fit and enhance the work in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
2. The work should allow originality and personal expression, as well as mastery of technique. If surface design is the primary focus of the object, the design should reflect expressive qualities particular to the craftsman.

Guidelines for Metal Clay

This refers to any material composed of small particles of metal in a binder, such that, after being heated by kiln or torch, leaves only the precious metal behind. The material is worked as a "clay" before firing and as metal after sintering.

LNHC standards for work in metal clay require that the materials be fundamentally transformed by the maker/jeweler/sculptor, resulting in finished objects that demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and a spirited sense of personal vision.

1. Applicant should present a sufficient body of work to reflect a strong, consistent, and original style together with a high level of technical achievement.
2. Artistry of piece involves design and composition. Presentation, innovation, and creativity come into play. Form, color, and mass should all be working together to make a harmonious and integrated whole.
3. Each piece should demonstrate attention to all surfaces, including the back surface.
4. The work should be durable and well made so that it has a reasonable life span when used for its intended purpose.
5. Joining, fitting, and finishing of any parts should be the result of conscious decision. Connections (hot and cold) should be physically strong and any solder joints clean. Any adhesives should be appropriate to the piece with no "squeeze out."

6. Any purchased components should be of high quality, well integrated into the work, and findings should function properly.
7. Craftspeople are encouraged to permanently mark their work with quality stamps (e.g.: .999 fine silver or PMC, .925 for sterling, etc.) along with their personal hallmark. The League encourages craftspeople to provide supplemental materials, to educate the public on craft and process which comply with LNHC state jury standards.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The craftsman is responsible for making sure that work meets all Federal, State and Local Health and Safety Requirements.

Truth in Labeling

State juried craftspeople are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work and to provide to provide supplemental materials that educate the public on craft and process. Labeling must comply with League State Juried Standards. Craftspeople must comply with any specific legal requirements for labeling their craft.

Aesthetic Criteria

The work must demonstrate more than technical proficiency, more than reproduction of a recognized style; it should express the personal aesthetic and vision of the maker and demonstrate a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function and finish. A harmony of intent, process and result is the measure of successful work.

Standards Guidelines for Juried Work - Applicable to all media categories

Components and Accessories

Components or accessories are parts that are not made in the studio of the juried LNHC member, which are incorporated into craft objects. Such components and/or accessories are acceptable and appropriate only if: they are of high quality construction and materials; they do not visually dominate the finished object; and they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by juried LNHC members.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The craftsman is responsible for assurance that craftwork meets all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements.